

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 273**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Anderson**

February 12, 2009

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An act to amend Section 19280 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, relating to courts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 273, as introduced, Anderson. Collections: amounts imposed by a court.

Existing law provides that delinquent fines, state or local penalties, forfeitures, restitution fines and orders, and any other amounts imposed by a superior court upon a person or entity for criminal offenses, that total at least \$100 in the aggregate, may be referred by the court, county, or state to the Franchise Tax Board for collection, as specified. Existing law authorizes the board to collect any amount referred to the board under these provisions, and any interest thereon, in any manner authorized for collection of a delinquent personal income tax liability.

This bill would require the superior court to refer these delinquent fines, state or local penalties, forfeitures, restitution fines and orders, and any other amounts imposed by a superior court upon a person or entity for criminal offenses to the board for collection, regardless of the amount. The bill would authorize the board to collect actual and reasonable costs of collection in addition to any amounts referred and interest thereon.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 19280 of the Revenue and Taxation Code is amended to read:

19280. (a) (1) Fines, state or local penalties, forfeitures, restitution fines, restitution orders, or any other amounts imposed by a superior court of the State of California upon a person or any other entity that are due and payable ~~in an amount totaling no less than one hundred dollars (\$100), in the aggregate,~~ for criminal offenses, including all offenses involving a violation of the Vehicle Code, ~~may~~ *shall*, no sooner than 90 days after payment of that amount becomes delinquent, be referred by the superior court, *and may be referred by* the county, or the state, to the Franchise Tax Board for collection under guidelines prescribed by the Franchise Tax Board. Unless the victim of the crime notifies the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to the contrary, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation may refer a restitution order to the Franchise Tax Board, in accordance with subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2), for any person subject to the restitution order who is or has been under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

(2) For purposes of this subdivision:

(A) The amounts referred by the superior court, the county, or state under this section may include an administrative fee and any amounts that a government entity may add to the court-imposed obligation as a result of the underlying offense, trial, or conviction. For purposes of this article, those amounts shall be deemed to be imposed by the court.

(B) Restitution orders may be referred to the Franchise Tax Board only by a government entity, as agreed upon by the Franchise Tax Board, provided that all of the following apply:

(i) The government entity has the authority to collect on behalf of the state or the victim.

(ii) The government entity shall be responsible for distributing the restitution order collections, as appropriate.

(iii) The government entity shall ensure, in making the referrals and distributions, that it coordinates with any other related collection activities that may occur by superior courts, counties, or other state agencies.

1 (iv) The government entity shall ensure compliance with laws  
2 relating to the reimbursement of the State Restitution Fund.

3 (C) The Franchise Tax Board shall establish criteria for referral,  
4 which shall include setting forth a minimum dollar amount subject  
5 to referral and collection.

6 (b) The Franchise Tax Board, in conjunction with the Judicial  
7 Council, shall seek whatever additional resources are needed to  
8 accept referrals from all 58 counties or superior courts.

9 (c) Upon written notice to the debtor from the Franchise Tax  
10 Board, any amount referred to the Franchise Tax Board under  
11 subdivision (a) ~~and~~, any interest thereon, including any interest on  
12 the amount referred under subdivision (a) that accrued prior to the  
13 date of referral, *and the actual and reasonable costs of collection*,  
14 shall be treated as final and due and payable to the State of  
15 California, and shall be collected from the debtor by the Franchise  
16 Tax Board in any manner authorized under the law for collection  
17 of a delinquent personal income tax liability, including, but not  
18 limited to, issuance of an order and levy under Article 4  
19 (commencing with Section 706.070) of Chapter 5 of Division 2  
20 of Title 9 of Part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure in the manner  
21 provided for earnings withholding orders for taxes.

22 (d) (1) Part 10 (commencing with Section 17001), this part,  
23 Part 10.7 (commencing with Section 21001), and Part 11  
24 (commencing with Section 23001) shall apply to amounts referred  
25 under this article in the same manner and with the same force and  
26 effect and to the full extent as if the language of those laws had  
27 been incorporated in full into this article, except to the extent that  
28 any provision is either inconsistent with this article or is not  
29 relevant to this article.

30 (2) Any information, information sources, or enforcement  
31 remedies and capabilities available to the court or the state referring  
32 to the amount due described in subdivision (a), shall be available  
33 to the Franchise Tax Board to be used in conjunction with, or  
34 independent of, the information, information sources, or remedies  
35 and capabilities available to the Franchise Tax Board for purposes  
36 of administering Part 10 (commencing with Section 17001), this  
37 part, Part 10.7 (commencing with Section 21001), or Part 11  
38 (commencing with Section 23001).

39 (e) The activities required to implement and administer this part  
40 shall not interfere with the primary mission of the Franchise Tax

1 Board to administer Part 10 (commencing with Section 17001)  
2 and Part 11 (commencing with Section 23001).

3 (f) For amounts referred for collection under subdivision (a),  
4 interest shall accrue at the greater of the rate applicable to the  
5 amount due being collected or the rate provided under Section  
6 19521. When notice of the amount due includes interest and is  
7 mailed to the debtor and the amount is paid within 15 days after  
8 the date of notice, interest shall not be imposed for the period after  
9 the date of notice.

10 (g) In no event shall a collection under this article be construed  
11 as a payment of income taxes imposed under Part 10 (commencing  
12 with Section 17001) or Part 11 (commencing with Section 23001).